Public Notice

Public Notice No. 200300227	Date: **July 24, 2003**
Reply to: Regulatory Branch (CEPOH-EC-R/P. Galloway) U.S. Army Engineer District, Honolulu Building 230 Fort Shafter, Hawaii 96858-5440	Respond by: **August 25, 2003**

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Honolulu District

200300227

APPLICATION FOR DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY PERMIT FOR VATIA BAY SHORE PROTECTION PROJECT, VATIA, TUTUILA, AMERICAN SAMOA

1. APPLICANT: Department of Public Works, American Samoa Government, Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799

2. AGENT: Mr. Bruce Wade, M & E Pacific, Inc., 1001 Bishop Street, Pauahi Tower, Suite 500, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

3. APPLICABLE STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Section 10 of the River and Harbor Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344)

4. LOCATION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY: Waterfront area seaward of Vatia Village, Tutuila, American Samoa (Figure 1). The activity for which Department of the Army authorization is requested will occur along a portion of the roadway corridor which abuts the shoreline.

5. PROJECT PURPOSE AND DESCRIPTION:

The activity for which the applicant has requested Department of the Army (DA) authorization is a Federal Highways Administration funded project.

The purpose of the project is to protect and prevent deterioration of the shoreline road which leads through the village of Vatia. The application states that relocation of the road in an inland direction was considered infeasible as this would require the taking of communal property.

In order to provide the desired protection of the road, the applicant proposes to construct a shoreline revetment approximately 3,000 feet in length, consisting of four segments (Figures 1-7). The project is designed to accommodate the existing concrete box culverts serving Mulivai Stream (Station 0+00), Faatefe Stream (Station 3+50), Lausaa Stream (Station 10+40), and

Leafu Stream (Station 20+90). Revetment construction would follow the design shown in the typical section (Figure 8).

Excavation proposed within the regulatory jurisdiction of the Corps of Engineers would include approximately 3,380 cubic yards (CY) of material, which would be excavated from a total area of approximately 0.64 acre. The applicant notes that the project area consists of consolidated limestone reef rock, sand, and rubble.

The project would involve the discharge of approximately 6,005 CY of fill material within the regulatory jurisdiction of the Corps, consisting of geotextile filter fabric (387 CY), grout-filled geotextile bags (420 CY), compacted fill (1015 CY), tremie concrete (28 CY), underlayer stones (2,790 CY), and concrete "Samoa Stones" (pre-cast concrete blocks, as shown in Figure 8) (390 CY). The applicant indicates that the compacted fill would consist of excavated material or select borrow, but has not specified the source. The source of underlayer stones has likewise not been specified. The total area of waters of the U.S. to be filled would be approximately 0.9 acre.

6. IMPACTS OF PROPOSED ACTIVITIES IF AUTHORIZED:

Construction activities have the potential to cause a temporary increase in turbidity in inshore waters; this potential impact may be avoided or minimized by including suitable measures in the project to mitigate effects on the aquatic environment. Such measures may include use of silt curtains or other devices to confine turbidity to the work area during construction. The marine biological community of the project site (which is devoid of living corals) would be disrupted by construction activities, but the completed revetment would be quickly occupied by marine organisms. Project construction may cause temporary, localized increases in dust and noise.

The project is not expected to have any significant long-term adverse impacts. Because such revetment projects are normally sited where erosion is recurring and critical infrastructure is present, the number of such projects is naturally limited and cumulative effects are not considered to be significant.

7. IMPACT ON HISTORIC PROPERTIES:

The American Samoa Historic Preservation Office (ASHPO) has notified the Corps of Engineers that there are two World War II era pillboxes in the project area. The ASHPO has indicated that there is a potential that these structures are within the Area of Potential Effect for this undertaking, that these structures are historic properties, and that these structures may be adversely affected by this undertaking. The location of one of the pillboxes is indicated in Figure 5 (between Stations 20+40 and 21+30) by a small shaded circle and the words "Conc Structure" and "Remove exist conc structure as necessary to construct revetment". The other pillbox is located in the ocean approximately 100 feet offshore between stations 9+90 and 10+80 and is not shown in Figure 3. The Corps of Engineers is assessing the structures in the context of the project pursuant to fulfilling its responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (36 CFR 800).

No other potential historic properties are known in the project area. In the event that discovery of potential historic properties occurs during project execution, the American Samoa Historic

Preservation Office will be immediately notified; this is a general condition that would be included in the Department of Army permit.

8. IMPACT ON ENDANGERED SPECIES:

Federally protected green and hawksbill sea turtles are known to be present in waters around the island of Tutuila. Much of the project reach consists of cobble and rubble from previous shore protection efforts. Although there are some areas of medium to coarse grained sand, they are relatively narrow and believed to be unsuitable for turtle nesting. Based on the location and nature of the proposed work, the project is not likely to adversely affect the green or hawksbill turtles or any other species which is candidate, proposed or listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act.

This notice has been sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service in accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. Any comments they have on endangered or threatened species, or their critical habitat, will be considered before a final decision is made on the permit.

9. IMPACT ON ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT:

The project is not expected to adversely affect any Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) identified pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery and Management Act (MSFCMA). This notice has been sent to the National Marine Fisheries Service pursuant to coordination requirements of the MSFCMA. Any conservation recommendations they make concerning EFH will be considered before a final decision is made on the permit.

10. OTHER GOVERNMENT AUTHORIZATIONS/CERTIFICATIONS:

Before a Department of the Army permit can be issued for the proposed work, the applicant must first obtain a Section 401 Water Quality Certification from the American Samoa Government (ASG) Environmental Protection Agency and an American Samoa Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program consistency certification from the ASG Department of Commerce.

11. EVALUATION FACTORS:

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof: among these are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

12. COMMENTS AND INQUIRIES:

Interested parties may submit in writing any comments that they have on the proposed permit. Comments should be forwarded so as to reach this District no later than the response date indicated on the first page of this notice. Mailed comments should cite this notice and should be sent to: Regulatory Branch (CEPOH-EC-R/P. Galloway); U.S. Army Engineer District, Honolulu; Building 230; Fort Shafter, Hawaii 96858-5440. Alternatively, comments may be faxed to the following number: (808) 438-4060. If needed, further information may be obtained from Peter Galloway via telephone at (808) 438-8416. This notice is also available at the Honolulu District web site (www.poh.usace.army.mil).

13. REQUEST FOR PUBLIC HEARING:

Any person may request, in writing, within 15 days from the date of this notice that a public hearing be held to consider the proposed permit. Requests for public hearing shall specifically state the reasons for holding a public hearing.

Attachments:
Figure 1. Location map
Figs. 2-7. Plan views
Figure 8. Typical section and Samoa stone

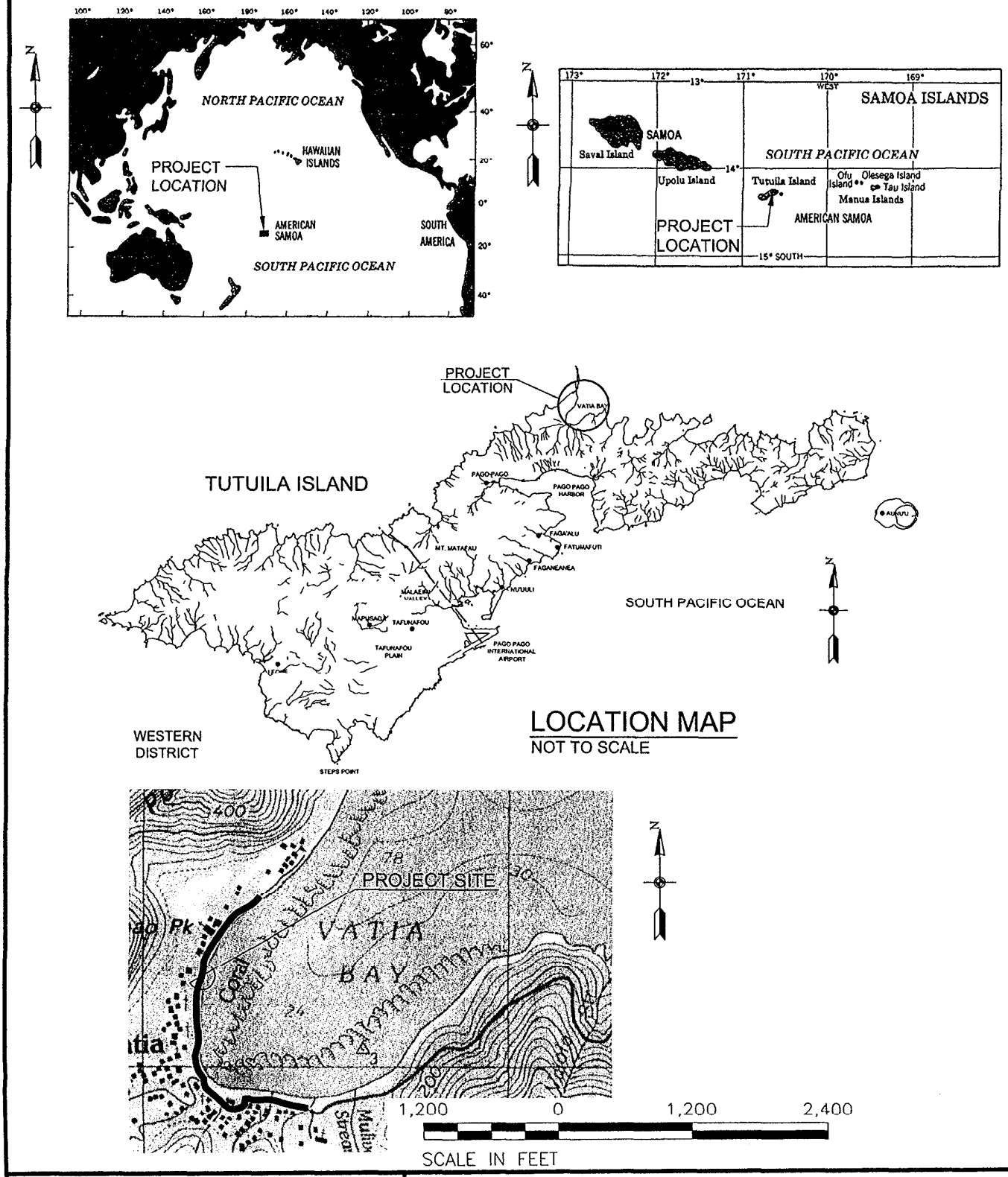

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FIGURE 1
PROJECT LOCATION
VATIA BAY SHORE PROTECTION
Tutuila Island, American Samoa
January 2003

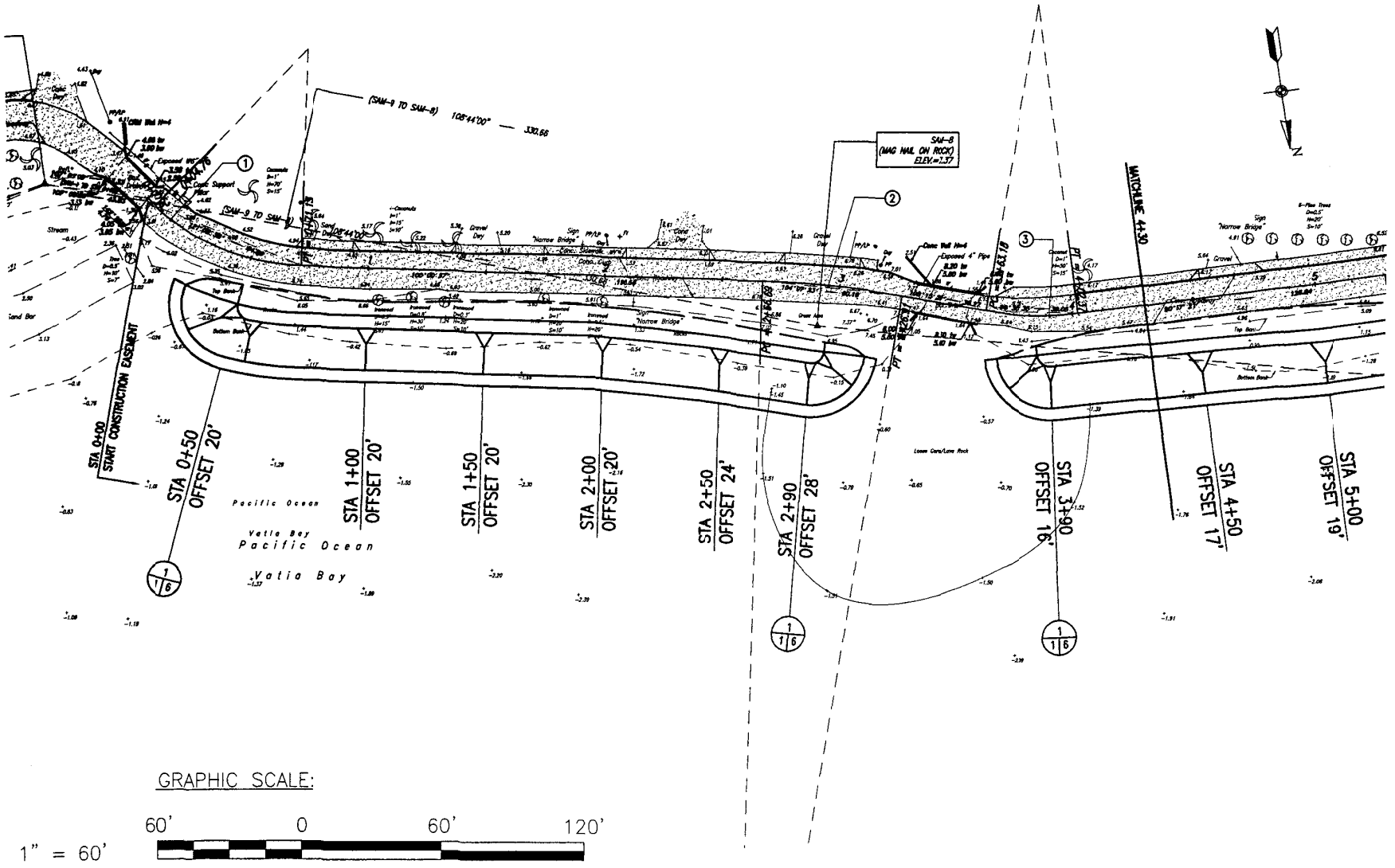

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FIGURE 2
PLAN - STA 0+00 - 5+00
VATIA BAY SHORE PROTECTION
Tutuila Island, American Samoa
January 2003

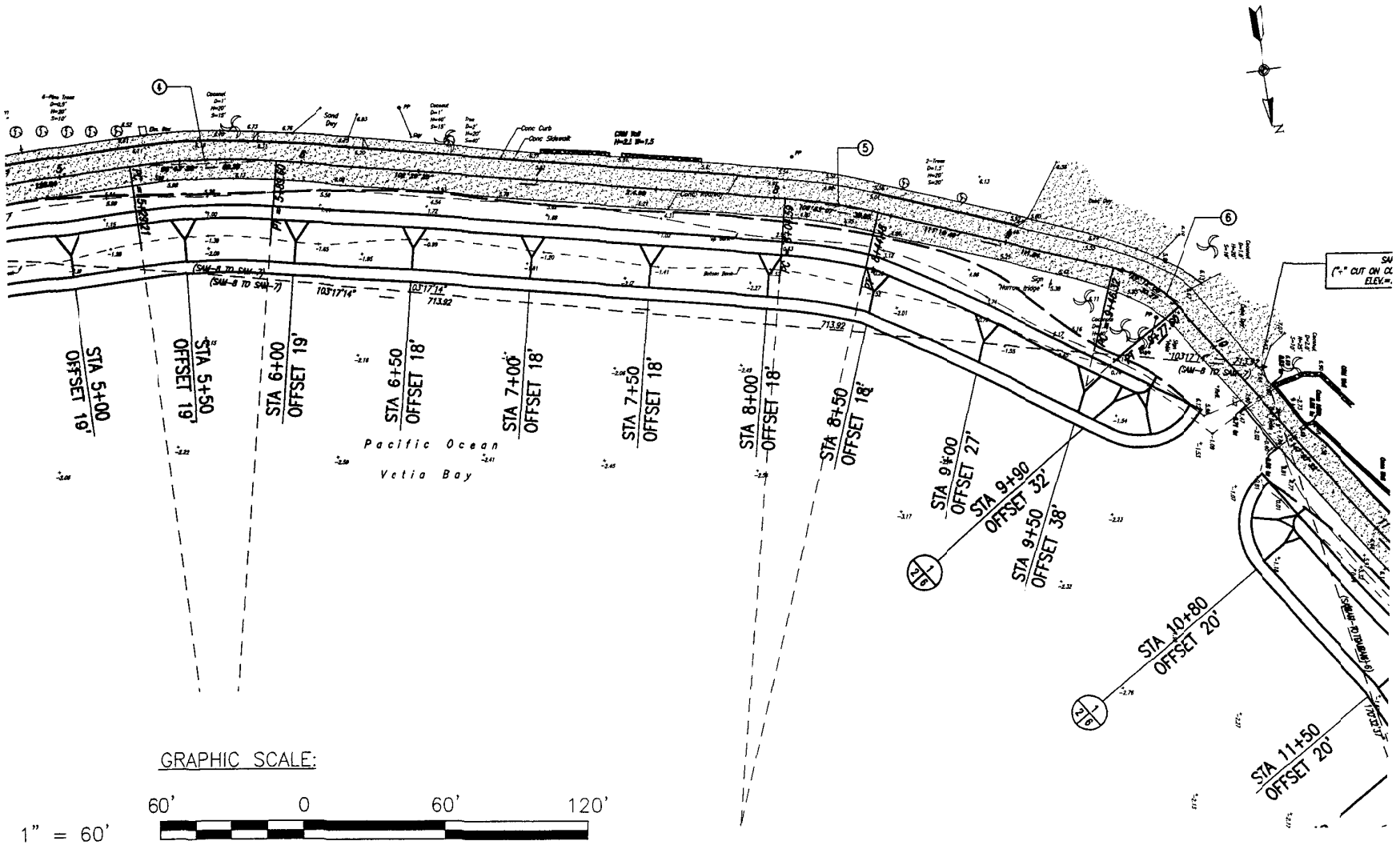

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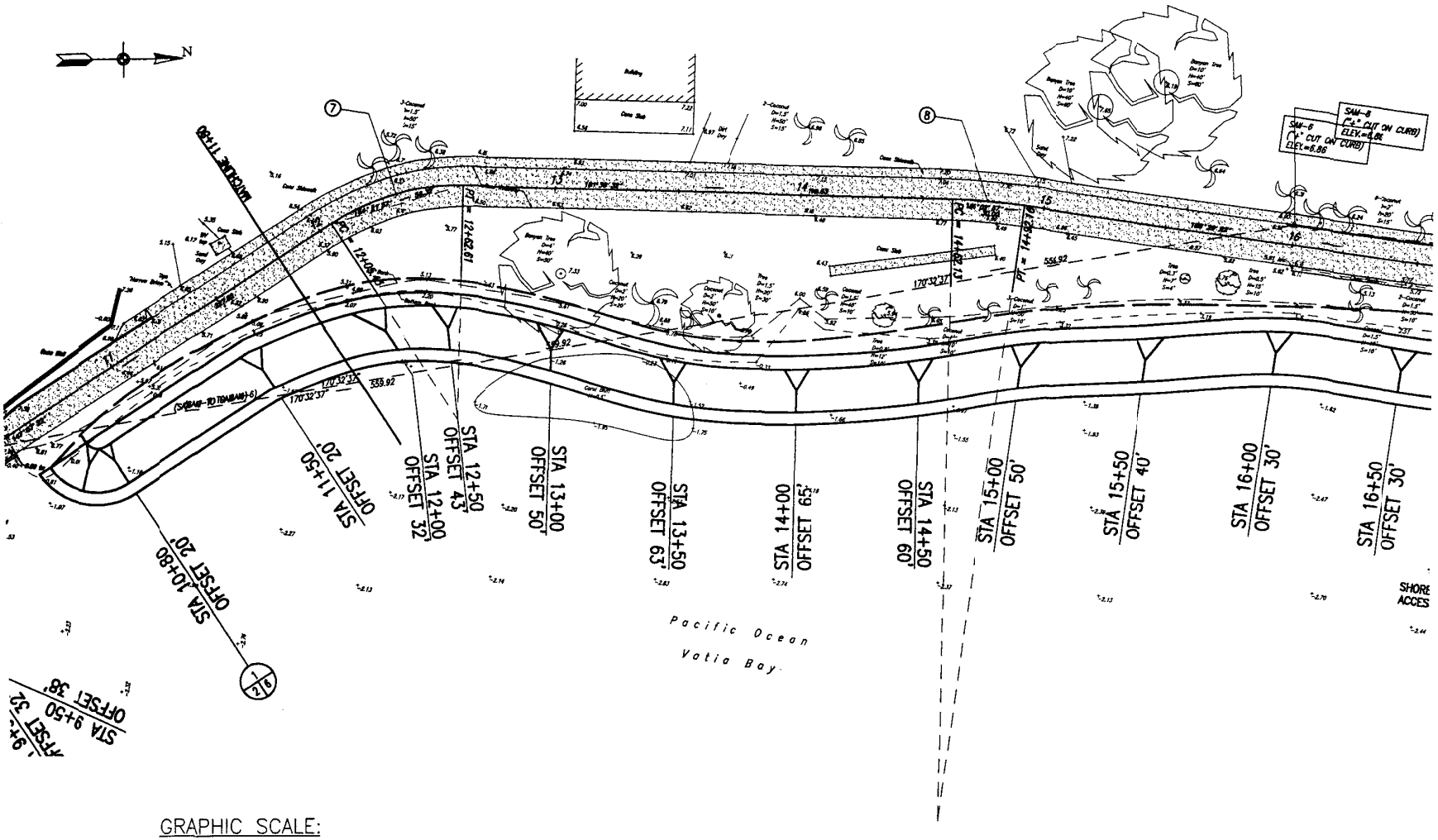
FIGURE 3
PLAN - STA 5+00 - 10+80
VATIA BAY SHORE PROTECTION
Tutuila Island, American Samoa
January 2003



GRAPHIC SCALE:

60' 0 60' 120'

1" = 60'

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FIGURE 4
PLAN - STA 10+80 - 16+50
VATIA BAY SHORE PROTECTION
Tutuila Island, American Samoa
January 2003

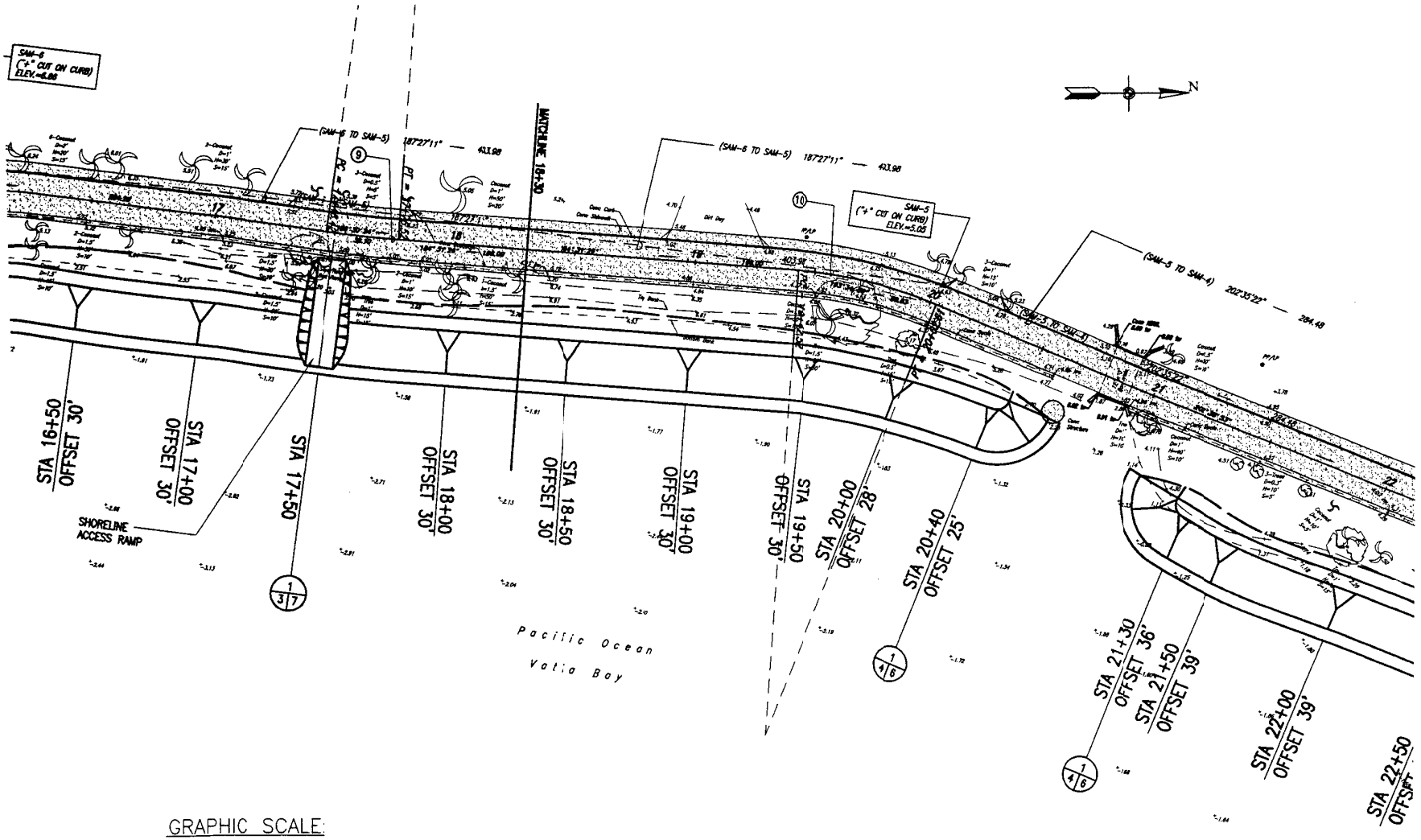

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FIGURE 5
PLAN - STA 16+50 - 22+00
VATIA BAY SHORE PROTECTION
Tutuila Island, American Samoa
January 2003

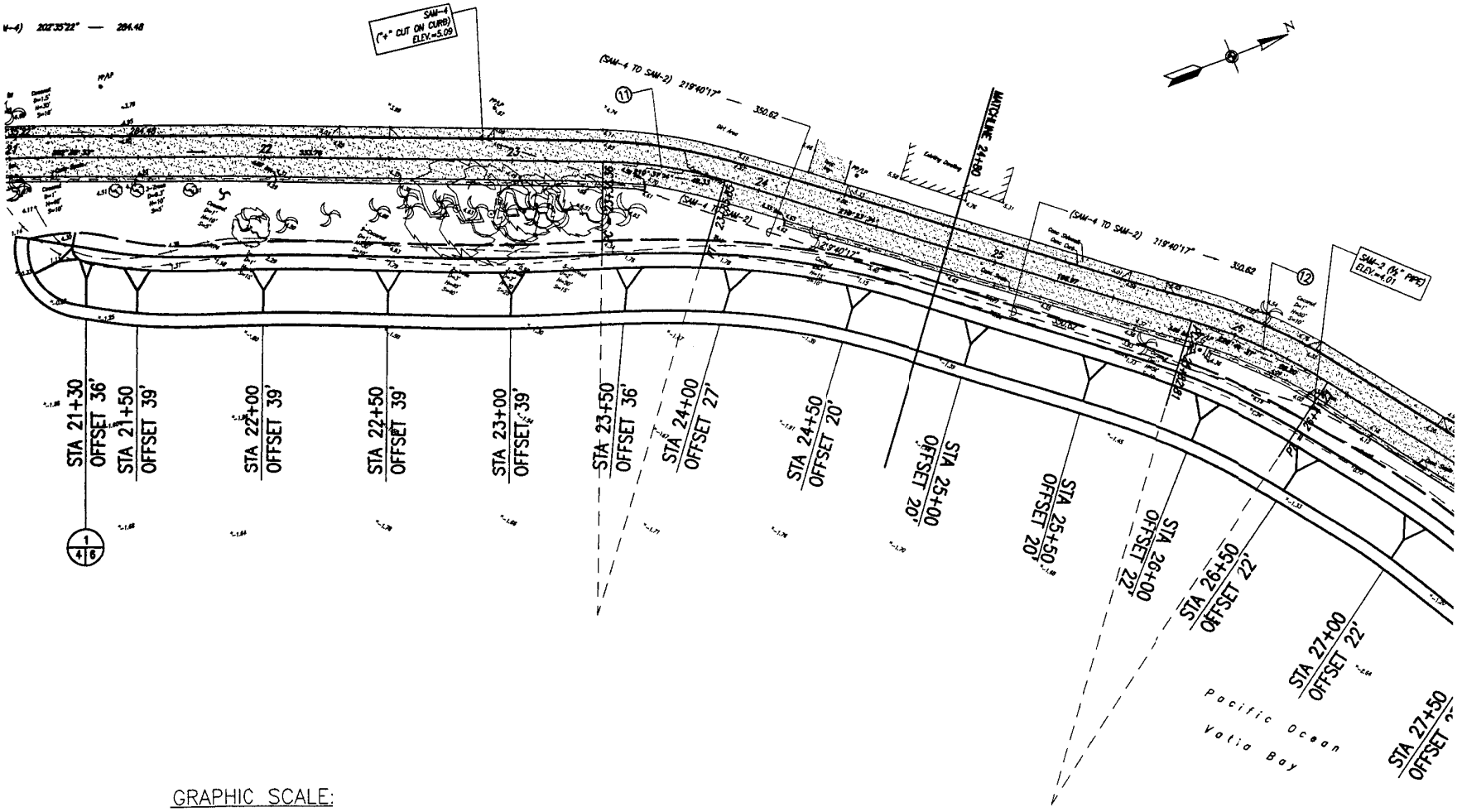

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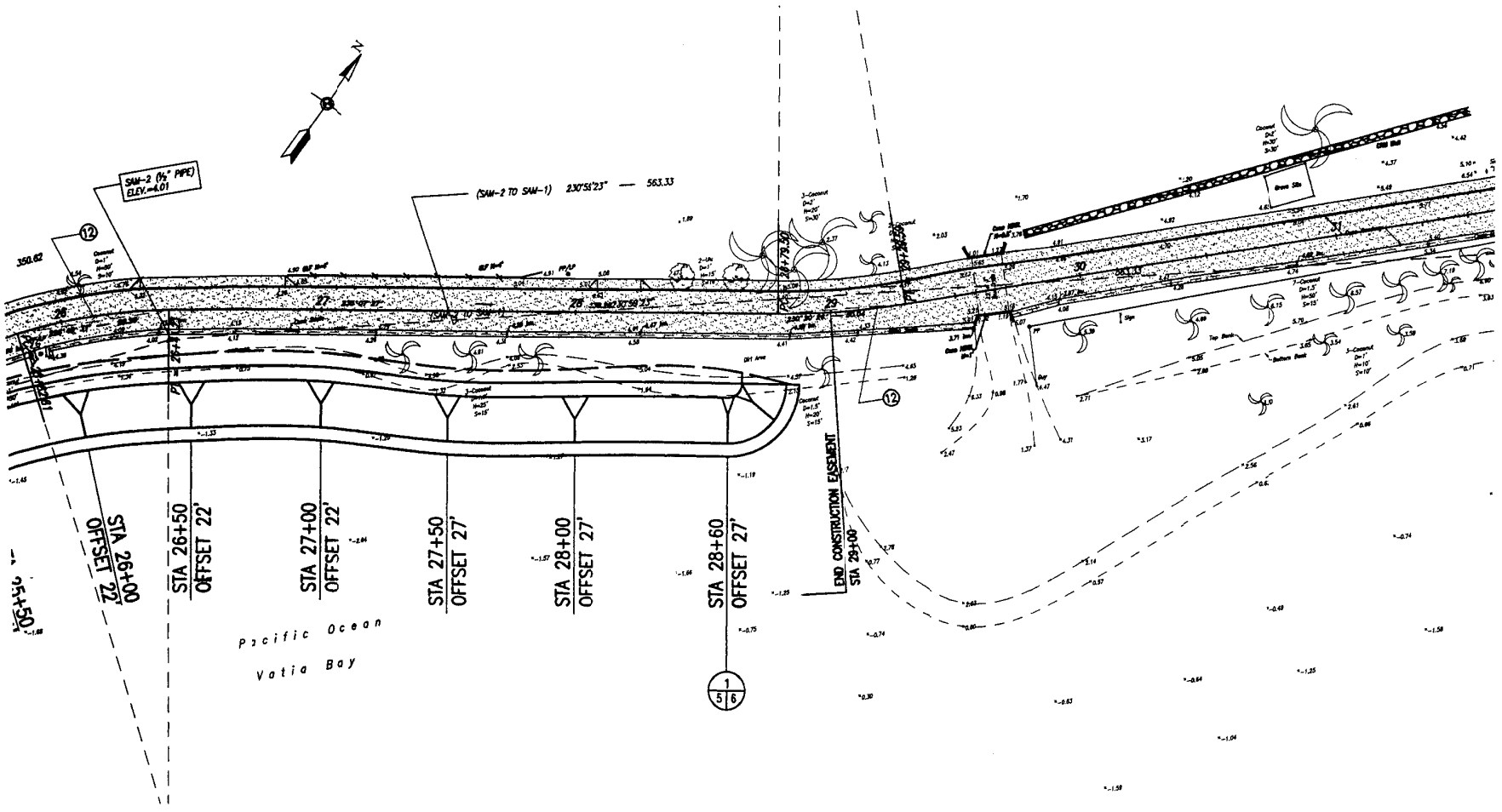
FIGURE 6
PLAN - STA 22+00 - 26+50
VATIA BAY SHORE PROTECTION
Tutuila Island, American Samoa
January 2003



GRAPHIC SCALE:

60' 0 60' 120'

1" = 60'

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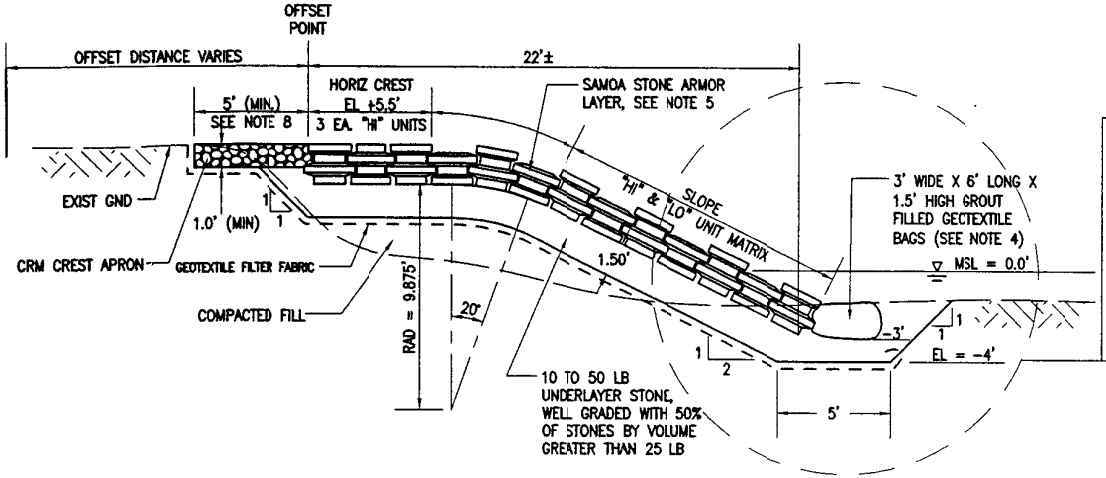
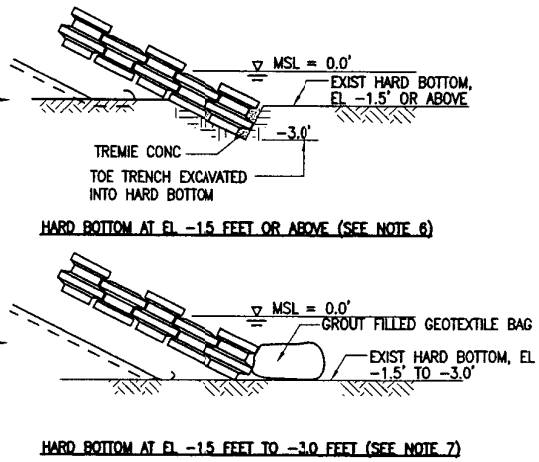
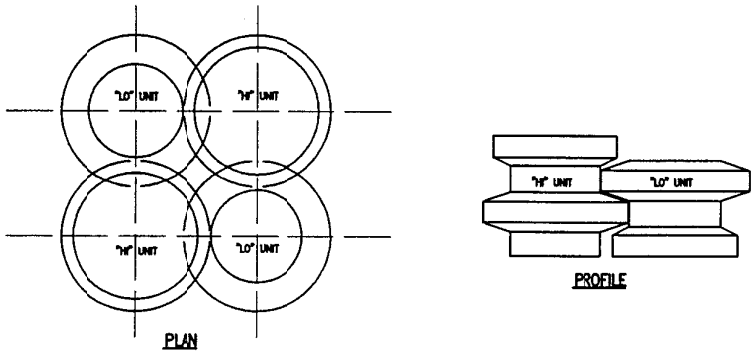
FIGURE 7
PLAN - STA 26+50 - 29+00
VATIA BAY SHORE PROTECTION
Tutuila Island, American Samoa
January 2003



TYPICAL REVETMENT SECTION
SCALE: 1" = 8'-0"



ALTERNATE TOE CONFIGURATION
FOR HARD REEF-ROCK FOUNDATION CONDITIONS



SAMOA STONE ARMOR
UNIT PLACEMENT PATTERN
SCALE: NTS

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FIGURE 8
TYPICAL SECTION & SAMOA STONE
VATIA BAY SHORE PROTECTION
Tutuila Island, American Samoa
January 2003